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Representatives Sinema, Lopez: Ableser, DeSimone, Farley, Gallardo, Lopes,
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A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO END THE DISCRIMINATORY "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY IN THE NATION'S ARMED FORCES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress and President of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, since the 1994 codification into law by the United States
4 Congress, and by the signature of the President, the policy now known as
5 "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" (National Defense
6 Authorization Act of 1994; Public Law 103-160) has led to the discharge of a
7 great number of lesbian and gay service members, thus ending their careers
8 and burdening them with a lifelong stigma; and

9 Whereas, the capacity of the armed forces of the United States to carry
10 out its missions, like the global war on terror, is hindered when competent
11 and qualified individuals are involuntarily discharged from those forces; and

12 Whereas, the armed forces of the United States have been forced to
13 retain reserve and national guard service members on active duty past
14 standard deployment lengths in order to carry out its missions during the
15 global war on terror; and

16 Whereas, the ability of the armed forces to recruit and retain the best
17 and brightest Americans is hindered by excluding a section of the population
18 solely because of sexual orientation; and

19 Whereas, lesbian and gay service members have served honorably
20 throughout United States history and continue to serve with distinction on
21 active duty in the global war on terror, including in Operation Enduring
22 Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

23 Whereas, these men and women have achieved military honors, decoration
24 and promotions to the highest ranks of their respective services for their
25 valor and service to the people of the United States; and

26 Whereas, America's allies in the war on terror, like the United
27 Kingdom, Australia and Israel, all allow lesbian and gay service members to
28 serve openly; and

29 Whereas, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of
30 Investigation, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency,
31 the Central Intelligence Agency and other federal departments handling
32 national security allow their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
33 personnel to serve openly; and

34 Whereas, a February 2005 Government Accountability Office report shows
35 that more than 9,488 service members have been discharged under the "Don't
36 Ask, Don't Tell" policy, including at least 757 service members in "critical
37 occupations," such as counterintelligence experts, at a cost to taxpayers of
38 more than \$190 million; and

39 Whereas, the Department of Defense reported that 209 language
40 specialists have been discharged from the military under the "Don't Ask,
41 Don't Tell" policy, including 54 Arabic and 9 Farsi translators who are
42 vitally important to intelligence gathering and are in critical shortage; and

1 Whereas, evidence from a study conducted by the Center for the Study of
2 Sexual Minorities in the Military suggests that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"
3 policy increases gay troops' stress levels, lowers their morale, impairs
4 their ability to form trusting bonds with their peers, restricts their access
5 to medical care, psychological services and religious consultations, and
6 limits their ability to advance professionally and their willingness to join
7 and remain in the services; and

8 Whereas, every Department of Defense authorized study has shown that
9 there is no correlation between sexual orientation and unit cohesion in the
10 armed forces; and

11 Whereas, a majority of American citizens support keeping trained and
12 skilled openly gay and lesbian service members in the military; and

13 Whereas, the United States military's readiness to protect and defend
14 our nation is severely compromised because of the discriminatory "Don't Ask,
15 Don't Tell" policy that is arbitrarily enforced by commanders whose personal
16 beliefs may influence their disciplinary action; and

17 Whereas, discharges under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are historically
18 fewer when troop strength is low, as in times of war, which denotes the tacit
19 recognition by the military that lesbian and gay service members are fit and
20 capable of military service, thereby further illustrating the arbitrary
21 enforcement of this policy; and

22 Whereas, military readiness is enhanced when all qualified, capable
23 Americans, regardless of sexual orientation, are welcomed into our armed
24 forces and their talents are used in the best interest of our national
25 security.

26 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
27 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

28 1. That the Congress and President of the United States adopt the
29 Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 1059) to end the
30 discriminatory federal policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

31 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
32 of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the
33 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
34 Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.